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## **Houston Students Win 2016 Congressional Art Competition**

**Houston, T.X.** — Students from James E. Taylor High School won the top honors at this year's Congressional Art Competition hosted by Congressman John Culberson (TX-07).

"The artwork we see here is truly remarkable," said Congressman Culberson at a ceremony held for the finalists in his Houston office. "Year after year, it is such a treat to witness the great level of talent these students from our district have. Our office received 38 entries from six different schools in Houston and today we have the opportunity celebrate their hard work."

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent. Students from each congressional district in America submit their work to their Representative's office, and panels of local artists select the winning entries.

This year, the first place award went to Catherine Xu for her Prismacolor Marker piece, "Close Up Encounter". Her drawing will be displayed for one year at the United States Capitol.



*Catherine Xu's "Close Up Encounter"*

Second place went to Amber Wang for her colored pencil drawing entitled, “Young Apprentice”.



*Amber Wang with her Artwork*

Third place went to Kate Larsen for her Prisma Pencil piece, “Catch Me If You Can”.



*Kate Larsen with her Artwork*

Catherine Xu, Amber Wang, and Kate Larsen are all students at James E. Taylor High School. Pictured below is their art teacher, Nancy Viola at the reception with Congressman Culberson:



Since the competition was launched in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students across the nation have participated in the annual event.

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